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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 106
By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to recognize Nuclear Fuel Services, Inc. for
contributions to education.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those organizations that, through their extraordinary efforts, have improved the quality of life for the citizens of this state; and

WHEREAS, the sole manufacturer of fuel for the United States Navy's nuclear-powered fleet, Nuclear Fuel Services (NFS), Inc. has been a landmark institution in Erwin for more than forty years; a pioneer in research and development, the company has made countless contributions to the northeast Tennessee community, most notably in the field of education; and

WHEREAS, committed to literacy, NFS researched innovative instructional methods and identified Direct Instruction as the most promising; with the aid of the company, Temple Hill Elementary School implemented the program in 2000 and has already experienced remarkable improvement among its students, many of whom are from disadvantaged socioeconomic groups and would likely not have been able to benefit from the special programs without NFS's assistance; and

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WHEREAS, the corporation has also provided significant monetary support to fund Accelerated Reader Programs and purchase books for local elementary schools; due in large part to this support, the number of books read by students in many of the schools has tripled that of previous years; and

WHEREAS, also devoted to promoting mathematical skills, NFS identified the Calculating Caterpillar program, provided funding for teachers and administrators to view it at work in other states, and hosted a workshop to instruct teachers on its implementation; fun and inclusive of all students, the program has correlated with marked improvement in standardized math test scores, and it has spread to other schools in Tennessee, aided by NFS; and

WHEREAS, lacking air conditioning in many schools and the funding with which to acquire it, the school board and county commission in Erwin approached NFS for assistance; the company guaranteed the \$100,000 in seed money needed to seek a million dollar federal grant; in addition to alleviating distracting heat and humidity during the school year, the air conditioning will enable the school system to offer remedial instruction during the summer months to enhance the educational opportunities for disadvantaged students; and

WHEREAS, in 1988, NFS pioneered a unique academic incentive program, Grades of Academic Leaders, which has been recognized by Kraft Foods as an ideal model of effective partnership between business and educational institutions; the program integrates student achievement with recognition and rewards from school administrators, the local business community, and student peers, and student grades and attendance have increased markedly during the program's term of existence; and

WHEREAS, as the world becomes increasingly dependent on the computer, computer education has become a vitally important aspect of any curriculum; cognizant of the Erwin schools' need for computers, NFS went beyond the simple measure of purchasing machines, instead creating a program that would ensure that the schools would have access to affordable computers, while also providing a venue for vocational students to learn how to build, repair,

and network computers; the vocational computer program is expected to expand to include sixty students this year who build machines for the schools and to market to private companies, including NFS; and

WHEREAS, encouraged by the company's philanthropic leadership, NFS employees have made substantial contributions to their community's educational programs; since 1999, they, with matching funds from NFS, have donated more than \$24,000 to two adopted elementary schools; additionally, the many NFS employees have donated their free time to support the schools as tutors, assistant coaches, and guest instructors in science, information technology, and other fields and to paint, repair, and maintain school facilities and equipment; and

WHEREAS, aided by the substantial support provided by NFS, the students of the Unicoi County schools, despite drawing support from a relatively small tax base, regularly score remarkably high on standardized tests; NFS has established itself as a vital component in the educational community of Erwin, northeast Tennessee, and our state and has played a vital role in the development of the high quality of life that is enjoyed by the people of this state; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby commend the good people of Nuclear Fuel Services, Inc. for their commitment to community, thank them for their service to the educational institutions of Unicoi County and Tennessee, and wish them every success in future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.